

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 PRS-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:KFITZPATRICK:KF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, MNC, IN, US

SUBJECT:

PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT DON OBERDORFER BY-LINER PAGE A5,  
THE WASHINGTON POST, MONDAY, AUGUST 9, HEADED "U.S.  
CONCEDES PROBABLE ROLE IN INDIAN A-BLAST."

2. IN A REVERSAL OF ITS PREVIOUS POSITION, THE UNITED  
STATES NOW BELIEVES THERE IS "A HIGH PROBABILITY" THAT  
AMERICAN HEAVY WATER WAS USED IN PRODUCING INDIA'S 1974  
ATOMIC EXPLOSION, ACCORDING TO A LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF  
STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER RELEASED YESTERDAY.

3. KISSINGER'S LETTER AND AN ACCOMPANYING STATE DEPARTMENT  
ANALYSIS BLAMED "INCORRECT" CALCULATIONS AND GOVERNMENT  
STATEMENTS FOR THE PREVIOUS AMERICAN POSITION THAT IT WAS  
NOT INVOLVED IN THE EXPLOSION. THE BLAST, INDIA'S FIRST,  
CREATED POLITICAL SHOCK WAVES IN NEIGHBORING STATES AND  
HEIGHTENED FEARS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ABOUT THE SPREAD OF  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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4. CANADA PERMANENTLY TERMINATED ITS NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA BECAUSE A CANADIAN SUPPLIED RESEARCH REACTOR

WAS USED TO MAKE THE MATERIAL FOR THE INDIAN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE, AND BECAUSE INDIA REFUSED TO GIVE SATISFACTORY ASSURANCES IT WOULD NOT DO THE SAME THING AGAIN. THE U.S. HEAVY WATER-SUPPLIED UNDER AN AGREEMENT THAT IT WAS TO BE USED ONLY FOR "PEACEFUL PURPOSES" - WAS, AND MAY STILL BE, IN USE IN THE CANADIAN-SUPPLIED REACTOR.

5. "HEAVY WATER" IS AN EXPENSIVE MAN-MADE CHEMICAL CONTAINING MORE THAN THE NATURAL PROPORTION OF HEAVY HYDROGEN ATOMS FOUND IN ORDINARY WATER. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION OF SOME TYPES OF ATOMIC REACTORS.

6. THE LETTER FROM KISSINGER, DATED LAST MONDAY, WAS RELEASED YESTERDAY BY CHAIRMAN ABRAHAM A. RIBICOFF (D-CONN) OF THE SENATE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, TO WHOM IT WAS SENT.

7. IN AN ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT, RIBICOFF SAID HE IS "DEEPLY DISTURBED" BY KISSINGER'S DISCLOSURES "BECAUSE THEY INDICATE THAT INDIA HAS MISUSED OUR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP ITS VERSION OF AN ATOMIC BOMB ... OVER THE FORMAL OBJECTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES."

8. THE U.S. OBJECTION HE REFERRED TO WAS A 1970 DIPLOMATIC NOTE DECLARING THAT U.S. NUCLEAR MATERIAL SUPPLIED FOR "PEACEFUL PURPOSES" SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR "PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS," WHICH IS WHAT INDIA CALLED ITS 1974 UNDERGROUND BLAST.

9. UNTIL NOW THE AMERICAN POSITION HAS BEEN THAT U.S. MATERIAL WAS NOT USED IN THE INDIAN EXPLOSION AND THEREFORE THERE WAS NO VIOLATION OF U.S.-INDIAN AGREEMENTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTINUED SHIPPING ESSENTIAL NUCLEAR FUEL TO AMERICAN-SUPPLIED POWER REACTORS AT TARAPUR, INDIA, UNDER AGREEMENTS THAT ARE TIGHTER THAN THOSE APPLIED TO THE U.S. HEAVY WATER.

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10. THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ASKED THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TO APPROVE ANOTHER SHIPMENT OF URANIUM FUEL FOR THE TARAPUR REACTORS, DESPITE OBJECTIONS FROM SEVERAL U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ARMS CONTROL GROUPS AND SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

11. WHILE CONCEDED THAT U.S. HEAVY WATER PROBABLY WAS USED, KISSINGER SAID IN HIS LETTER THAT THE UNITED STATES

DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION TO "CONCLUSIVELY ESTABLISH" THE FACT. HE SAID A "KEY FACTOR" IN THE U.S. ATTITUDE IS INDIAN PRODUCTION OF ITS OWN HEAVY WATER IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO HAVE REPLACED THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL IN THE REACTOR THAT MADE THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. KISSINGER DID NOT CLAIM THAT THIS ACTUALLY WAS DONE.

12. AS HIS LETTER TO RIBICOFF WAS MADE PUBLIC, KISSINGER WAS ARRIVING YESTERDAY IN PAKISTAN FOR AN OVERNIGHT VISIT THAT DEALS IN PART WITH REPERCUSSIONS OF THE 1974 INDIAN ATOMIC BLAST. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REPERCUSSIONS IS A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT THAT PAKISTAN PLANS TO PURCHASE FROM FRANCE OVER U.S. OBJECTIONS, INCLUDING A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO. SUCH A "REPROCESSING PLANT" WOULD BE CAPABLE OF MAKING BOMB MATERIAL FROM THE IRRADIATED "SPENT FUEL" OF CIVILIAN NUCLEAR REACTORS.

13. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PAKISTANI DRIVE WAS SPURRED BY THE ATOMIC BLAST OF ITS NEIGHBOR-RIVAL, INDIA. BHUTTO HAS VOWED THAT PAKISTAN WILL MATCH INDIA'S NUCLEAR CAPACITY EVEN IF PAKISTANIS HAVE "TO EAT GRASS" TO MOBILIZE THE RESOURCES.

14. A PROVISION OF THE RECENT FOREIGN MILITARY AID ACT WOULD CUT OFF U.S. ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID IF PAKISTAN GOES AHEAD WITH THE IMPORTATION OF THE FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT. END TEXT. HABIB

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, NPT, NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, HEAVY WATER, NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE197019  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** KFITZPATRICK:KF  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760306-0289  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760871/aaaackiq.tel  
**Line Count:** 143  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN PA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS MATERIAL: IRAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS  
**TAGS:** SOPN, IN, US, (OBERDORFER, DON)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006